

What is claimed is:

1. A steam generator for a washing machine comprising:
a hermetic container provided with a water supply port for supplying water
5 and a steam exhaustion port for exhausting steam;
a heater arranged in the hermetic container for heating water supplied into
the hermetic container; and
a drain unit for draining residual water inside of the hermetic container
outwardly.
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2. The steam generator of claim 1, wherein the drain unit naturally
drains residual water inside of the hermetic container by using a siphon principle.
3. The steam generator of claim 1, wherein the drain unit comprises:
15 a siphon pipe arranged to be penetrated at a lower portion of the hermetic
container; and
a siphon cap arranged at an outer circumferential surface of the siphon
pipe with a certain interval for forming a channel along which water rises.
- 20 4. The steam generator of claim 3, wherein the drain unit further
comprises a supporting rib for supporting the siphon cap in order to maintain a
certain interval between the siphon cap and the siphon pipe.
5. The steam generator of claim 3, wherein an upper end of the
25 siphon pipe is positioned inside the hermetic container, a lower end thereof is

positioned outside the hermetic container, and a height of the siphon pipe positioned inside the hermetic container is higher than a water supply level.

6. The steam generator of claim 3, wherein the siphon cap has a
5 blocked upper side and covers the siphon pipe, and a lower end of the siphon cap is arranged to maintain a certain interval with a bottom surface of the hermetic container in order to introduce water.

7. The steam generator of claim 4, wherein the supporting rib is
10 radially formed at an outer circumferential surface of the siphon pipe with a certain interval, and is provided with a mounting groove for mounting a lower end of the siphon cap.